UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.12
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

1. At its 15th meeting, on 19 May, the Committee considered the revisions to programme 32 (Regional cooperation for development in Europe) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 32)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the proposed revisions did not reflect the extent of the changes in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.

3. A number of delegations considered that the social implications of the transition to market economies of some countries should have been emphasized in the revisions.

4. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions should have highlighted the need to improve cooperation and coordination between ECE and other regional and international organizations.

5. Different views were expressed regarding the proposals on priorities within the programme. While a number of delegations supported those proposals, other delegations were of the view that subprogrammes 5 and 6, as a whole, should also be designated high priority.

6. A number of delegations considered that the designation of specific elements within subprogrammes 4 and 5 as priority areas was not in accordance with the provisions of programme planning regulations and rules.

7. A number of delegations expressed the view that the issue of international migration should be treated on a priority basis. Other delegations questioned whether this was indeed a valid objective to be pursued by the ECE.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 199?-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In the new paragraph 32.13 the words "including a study of the potential hazard of atomic radiation on the territory of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in close cooperation with IAEA and other relevant agencies" should be inserted after the words "possible areas of work".

(b) In the new paragraph 32.14, a reference to the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, should be added at the end of the paragraph.

(c) In the new paragraph 32.15, the titles of subprogrammes 4, 5, 7 and 8 should be changed to the following:

Subprogramme 4: Trade facilitation

Subprogramme 5: Economic analysis

Subprogramme 7: Development of international trade

Subprogramme 8: Industry and technology

The Committee noted that the changes recommended in paragraph 32.15 may require the Secretariat to make adjustments to the relevant programme narratives and report thereon to the second part of its thirty-second session.

(d) In the new paragraph 32.16, the first sentence should be replaced by "Subprogrammes 1 to 5 are designated as priority areas of work".

(e) In the new paragraph 32.21, at the end of the paragraph a new sentence should be added: "The need to develop effective ways of conserving flora, fauna and their habitats transcends the limits of individual countries and will require further cooperation for the maintenance of an acceptable regional environment".

(f) In the new paragraph 32.24, at the beginning of the paragraph, the words "Bearing in mind the decisions which may be taken at UNCED", should be inserted.

(g) In the new paragraph 32.28, at the end of the paragraph the words "within the context of the further liberalization of trade" should be replaced by the words "within the framework of the mandated activities of ECE".

(h) In the new paragraph 32.65, second sentence, before the words "oil substitution" the words "coal and" should be added.

(i) In the new paragraph 32.92, third sentence, the words "including UNEP and HABITAT" should be inserted after the words "international organizations".

9. The Committee recommended that existing legislative mandates for the involvement of the Commission in international cooperation to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl accident should be reflected in the narratives of subprogrammes 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10.

10. In view of the developments in the region, the Committee invited the Commission to keep the programme under review and to report, as appropriate, to the Committee.